

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of June 25, 2007**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Melvin Adams, Selectmen Kenneth Johnson, Roger LeClair, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Warren Hagy, Michael Demasi, Fire Chief William Lyon, Assistant Fire Chief Peter Demasi, Fire Caption Jim Russo, Firefighter Brian Elwell, Firefighter Mike Langley, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News and Transcript*).

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **June 11, 2007 (Regular Meeting):** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Chair Adams abstaining.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #25-07.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve Warrant #25-07 in the amount of \$26,650.41. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **Warrant #01-08.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve Warrant #01-08 in the amount of \$33,966.50. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Police Department Facilities.** Chief Jeff Shaw has proposed a design for packets. A RFP will go out this week with bids opened on July 19, 2007. They propose to put this in the current location of the blue building next to the Fire Station (previous Teen Center). There will be a Special Town Meeting in the late summer to approve the bond and have construction start next spring. There will be public meetings held prior to the Special Town Meeting.
- b. **Status Reports: Various Projects.** None.

VI. **SELECTBOARD**

- a. **Tax Anticipation Note: \$468,000 at 3.85% interest.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve and sign the Note. **Motion passed 5-0-0.** This amount will hopefully be reduced when the Grand List is submitted.
- b. **Ambulance Abatements:** Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the abatements. This is done once a year. This is up a bit from the previous years because ambulance runs are up. These are for those that are deceased or uncollectible. This has been through a collections agency and they have deemed them uncollectible. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. **Fire Chief Appointment.** Manager Allard read a letter she sent to Assistant Fire Chief Peter Demasi appointing him as new Fire Chief effective July 15, 2007. Retiring Chief William Lyon presented incoming Chief Demasi with a new Fire Chief's helmet and a fire badge from incoming Chief Demasi's father (a previous Fire Chief). Chief Lyon thanked Chief Demasi for his many years of service. Chair Adams thanked Chief Lyon for his many years of service and commended Chief Demasi for stepping forward.
- d. **Town Union Contract.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to authorize Chairman Melvin Adams to sign the new union contract. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- e. **Cemetery Rates.** Cemetery Rates were provided for the Falls Cemetery. Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the new rates. **Motion failed 0-5-0.** Selectman LeClair noted that this is different from the 1997 rates – this does not include non-residential rates. There were some clarifications needed. Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to table the item. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- f. **Northfield Falls Cemetery:** There has not been dissolution of the Falls Cemetery Association. The Association needs to file an Act of Dissolution and then the Cemetery can be taken over by the Town. The Association voted to dissolve but they have not filed the paperwork with the State yet. Once they have, the Town can take over. The accounts already have been transferred to the Town. There was discussion of a possible Cemetery Commission.

- g. **Bear Farm Road.** The Highway Committee has sent a packet of information. They have not decided if they will approve the request. The Board will have a site visit before the next regular meeting and will reconvene in the Community Room afterwards. The Committee would like to solicit comments from the other land owners on Bear Farm Road before taking final action.
- h. **Merger Committee update.** Minutes of the previous meeting were included in the packets. The committee has not determined if there will be savings through merger. The Committee does not want to imply that they have made any conclusions yet.
- i. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
  - a. The current Municipal Plan was in packets along with a memorandum from Zoning Administrator Michele Braun. The Plan is up for review. It was suggested that only one person track all suggestions and changes and that this person be Zoning Administrator Braun. Selectman Morse would like to see Susan Sinclair from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission attend a Board meeting so he could ask her some questions.
  - b. There was a Vermont Legislative Wrap Up booklet included in the packets. Selectman Morse would like to see a public report made on which groups benefited and which did not.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items: None.**

- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Selectboard was joined by the Village Trustees. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to go into executive session with the Trustees and the Municipal Manager to review the Manager's annual evaluation. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Leclair, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Joint Boards came out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. No action was taken.

- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing a settlement offer in the Tucker tax appeal.

The Board went into executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson to come out of executive session at 8:45. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Morse, to present a counter offer to the Tucker proposal. Responding to a letter from Tuckers attorney dated 6/25/07, Item 1 would list the total value of property at \$145,467. Item 2 would stipulate the appraisal price of the garden shed at \$4,420. Item 3 would stipulate that the total value of property is \$149,887. Item 4 would stipulate that the property will not be reassessed until a town wide reappraisal is conducted or until the property materially altered, changed, or damaged, whichever comes first. Item 5 agrees with the offer to refund taxes paid as described. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Selectman Sanders, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to reenter executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Leclair, seconded by Selectman Morse to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 9:26 p.m. No action was taken

- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Samantha H. Baraw*

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.